

# NAVY DAYS

Double Issue 5&6

SUMMER & AUTUMN 2001

## GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER?

Well that would have been wonderful, but the headline only hints at April Walker's recent starring role in a most successful touring production of the Katherine Hepburn role "Guess who's coming to Dinner?" Cast members included Patrick Robinson and George Sewell. In fact April would have found very little time to dine as she was on the road for six months touring the UK. This play immediately followed her appearance as Dolly Messiter at the Lyric Theatre in London's West End with Christopher Cazenove and Jenny Seagrove in the Noel Coward drama 'Brief Encounter'

However, April did find time to let us know about her projects, tour destinations and memories of the **Navy Lark**. A series which she fondly recalls not only for the team effort, the friendships made but also the fun in the studio making the programmes. The **NLAS** has forwarded her shows on tape as a 'Thank You'

April went on to remember her first West End appearance which was at The Lyric Theatre with Jon Pertwee in 'Oh Clarence'. It was a very entertaining production of the PG Wodehouse classic 'Blandings Castle' boasting a memorable cast including Naunton Wayne (*Titfield Thunderbolt*), Peggy Mount, Robertson Hare and James Hayter (*Mr Tebbs in Are You Being Served?*). Apparently Jon Pertwee played her Uncle Parsloe-Parsloe. (What a pity this production never made it to the studio for a radio adaptation!)

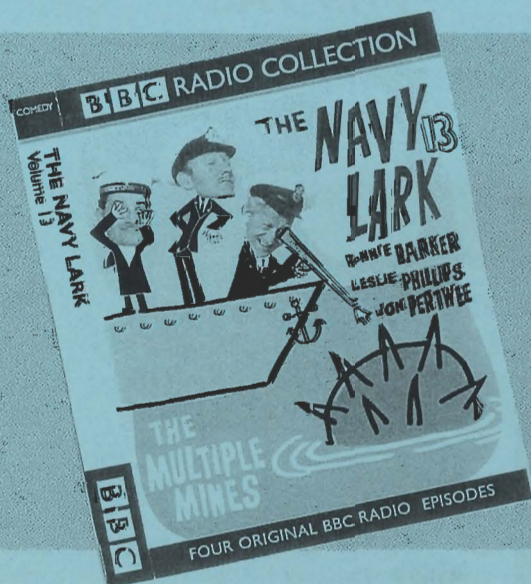
As we went to press April said she was looking forward to her next project and was very pleased to be remembered as Wren Bustard!

*If anyone has any pre Richard Vernon Blandings material I would be keen to have a listen!* FV



**April Walker**  
**1975/76**

15/06 Wdney and the Stamp  
15/07 Commander becomes a Snow Jumper  
15/08 Horable Horace comes Aboard  
15/09 Officers & Gents Lb  
15/10 The Case of the HGM MK5  
15/11 Uncle Walberforce Pertwee



## Latest Release

The 2001 cassette release by BBC Worldwide arrived on the shelves in July. It features four episodes from 1959 all with the marvellous Dennis Price as No. 1. These shows have been available from NLAS archive but you can now enjoy the programmes in glorious mono without background noise! As always, the four shows published have now been retired from the library so the only way you will get to hear them is to buy the tape.

The Multiple Mines: 24 May 1959  
The Gun Mechanism Test: 31 May 1959  
A Watch on the Initiative Test: 21 June 1959  
An Exercise in Filming: 28 June 1959  
ISBN 0-563-53521-0



# Contacts

## NAVY LARK ADDRESSES

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Fred Vintner

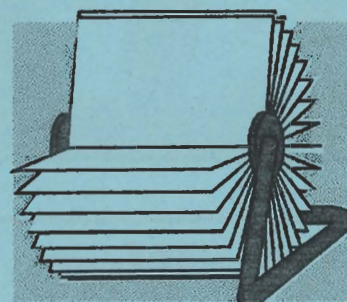
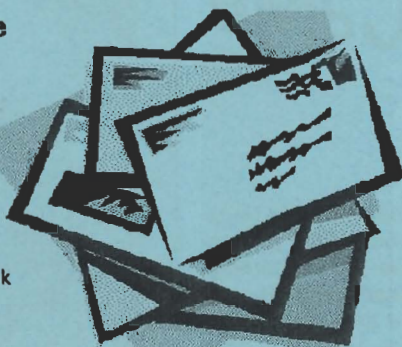
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## Larking About . . . . .

The Navy Lark	207/234	episodes
The TV Lark	09/10	episodes
The Embassy Lark	32 /42	episodes
The Big BUSINESS Lark	13/13	episodes
HMS Paradise		

2001 has been our best year yet for programme retrieval, 20 Embassy Larks, 18 Navy Larks and 11 Business Larks; together with many improved quality versions. A very BIG thanks to everyone who has helped make this a very successful aspect of the NLAS.



## Editorial

This section will not become a permanent feature - I hope! However, you will have noticed that this edition is heavier than normal. This is because I have chosen to put two seasonal issues together. The last three months have been a tad hectic here *and* with an impending move of house I suspect the next three will be no different. Desperate measures have been called for here at **NLAS HQ** and at the first sign of incomers anything and everything from the Wardroom was hurled into main hold (read garage). The consequences have been bizarre to say the least, not to mention that rotting smell..... Even **Pertwee** would have been hard pushed to locate anything despite the keenest efforts of **Fatso**. And my dear wife has yet to stop polishing her **Wot-Not! Ramona** would be so proud. That said, the NLAS is moving from strength to strength with new members each month and keen interest from other quarters. The Weekly News ran a piece, I believe - any sightings? And I have contributed an article to another publication and Gary Schajer's audio restoration articles continue in ORCA's TIY.

**Navy DayS** will shortly need more articles; if you would like to share a memory or two, produce a biography or review a show, a piece of equipment or open a discussion on some aspect of the show *write in*. I had an enquiry recently about the pendant numbers on the vessels in the Navy Lark movie. I could not confirm or deny that the craft used were Weymouth (WH) based. Any thoughts? Also the boat used in the Movie had the pendant number V2723; any idea where this came from? You will see later in this issue that Troutbridge's *sister* ship **HMS Troubridge** rejoiced in the pendant No **F09**.

Despite much use of the internet and leaving requests at various book search companies and old record repositories I have had no luck in locating either **The Navy Lark Scripts** or the **Parlophone R4610** disc. A recent letter suggested that two Larks were released on a vinyl LP in the 60s but once again no 'proof' as yet exists. Keep digging around.

Your vigilance has been truly remarkable this year and our thanks go to: Phil Watson, Steven Scott, Gary Schajer, Joe Kasser, Michael Yates and Steve Evans for their audio work and a special thanks to Lynne Porter who has been very assiduous in getting as much archive material together as is possible. I only hope I haven't lost too much in the 'hold'. As we seek fewer shows it is becoming clear that the 'Antarctic' Specials are going to be the **hardest** to locate as this material was put on disc and sent to ONE destination only and never aired in the UK. So if you have any contacts who might help us locate these gems, please do your **best** to unearth or unsnow these shows. They must be somewhere!



**Larking About** photos from BBC Worldwide



# Salute To Captain Povey

Recollections of **Richard Caldicot** by **John D Howarth**

I first remember seeing Richard in an episode of 'Here's Harry' with Harry Worth circa 1965/66. I would have been 9 or 10. Harry Worth was wanting to buy a house and went to an estate agent, who gave him details, and an address 'The Gables, Bramble Lane?' Needless to say Harry got it wrong, going to a taxi and asking for 'The Brambles, Gable Lane' - Lo and behold there was such an address, and Richard was the unfortunate householder whose day was reduced to chaos!! I remember Richard thereafter as that poor man who had been driven up the wall by Harry Worth! As a youngster I think I felt sorry for the characters Richard played - he so often was in that kind of role, not least as Captain Povey, where he was constantly driven to despair by a bunch of uncertified lunatics!

I've seen him work alongside a variety of notable actors, Norman Wisdom, Harry Worth, 'Catweazle', Michael Crawford and John Cleese. He played the doctor who delivered Frank Spencer's baby daughter and I'll never forget his line "*Mr Spencer, That is the umbilical cord!*". Only Richard could have delivered that line in that way. There was also the 'Gourmet Evening' episode in Fawlty Towers, and a Cadbury's Whole Nut advert when he burst into song with "Nuts, Whole Hazel Nuts....."

Years and years later, I was leaving a room to get something while the television was on; suddenly, I heard that familiar 'bark' and knew instantly who it was! It was a preview of Bergerac. Richard was playing a very unpleasant retired military man in a 1991 episode. I think he even had a fight with Bergerac himself. I even gave up my Saturday evening at the pub to watch it.

The last time I saw Richard in a new programme would have been a couple of years later, when he played a retired actor in 'Hope it Rains' with Tom Bell. He would have been way past 80 by then, so he had had an extremely long career. I recall him being in the stage version of 'No sex please, we're British' and was disappointed to find that he was not in the feature film of the same name.

So there we have it - my personal recollections of the work of Richard Caldicot. I raise my glass, and toast a grand old actor!

## THANKS RICHARD!

### Filmography

1947	Amazing Dr. Clitterhouse
1953	The Million Pond Note
1954	One Good Turn
1958	Horse's Mouth
1959	Follow a Star
1960	Clue of the Twisted Candle
1961	Dentist on the Job
1961	Court Martial of Major Keller
1962	The Durrant Affair
1962	The Battleaxe
1963	Echo of Diana
1964	HMS Paradise (ITV series of Navy Lark)
1965	The Spy who came in from the Cold
1967	The Beverly Hillbillies
1970	The Rise and Rise of Michael Rimmer
1971	Vanity Fair (mini TV series)
1975	Eskimo Nell
1977	Adventures of a Private Eye
1978	Adventures of a Plumber's Mate
1979	Firepower
1987	Lord Peter Whimsey
1990	Mountains of the Moon

### Notable TV Performances

054	Danger Man "Whatever Happened to George Foster"	
070	Danger Man "The Outcast"	
1967	The Avengers	A Funny Thing Happened..."
1967	The Prisoner	"Many Happy Returns"
1967	Beverly Hillbillies	"Clampett Castle"
1968	Beverly Hillbillies	"Bundle for Britain"
1968	Beverly Hillbillies	"Coming through the Rye"
1968	Beverly Hillbillies	"Ghost of Clampett Castle"
1968	Beverly Hillbillies	"Robin Hood of Griffith Park"
1968	Beverly Hillbillies	"Something for the Queen"
1968	Beverly Hillbillies	"War of the Roses"
1969	The Avengers	"Wish You Were Here"
1970	The Goodies	"The Greenies"
1970	UFO	"Reflections in the Water"
1975	Fawlty Towers	"Gourmet Night"
1977	Coronation Street	[Played Rev Smedley]
1981	Bergerac	"Warriors"
1985	Bulman	"A Cup for the Winner"
1994	Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes	"Mazarin Stone"

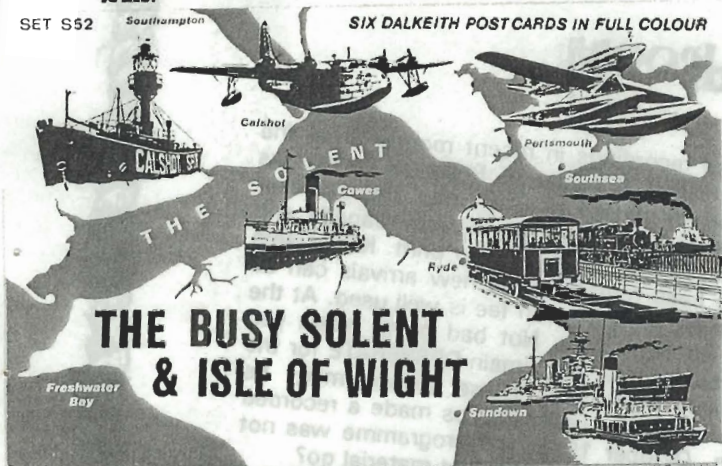
CDS



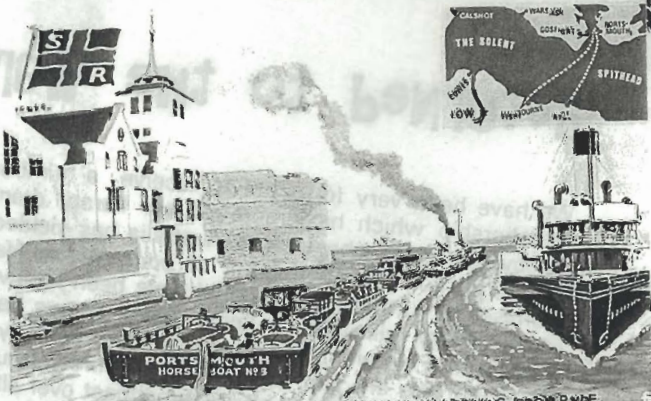
SET S52

Southampton

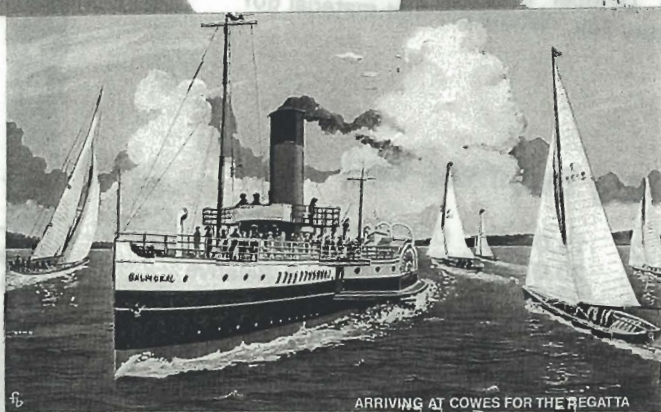
SIX DALKEITH POSTCARDS IN FULL COLOUR



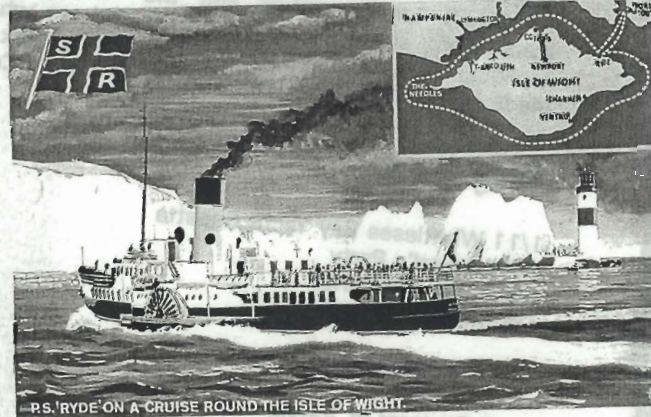
# THE BUSY SOLENT & ISLE OF WIGHT



TOW BOATS LEAVING PORTSMOUTH PASS R.S. SHANKLIN ARRIVING FROM RYDE.



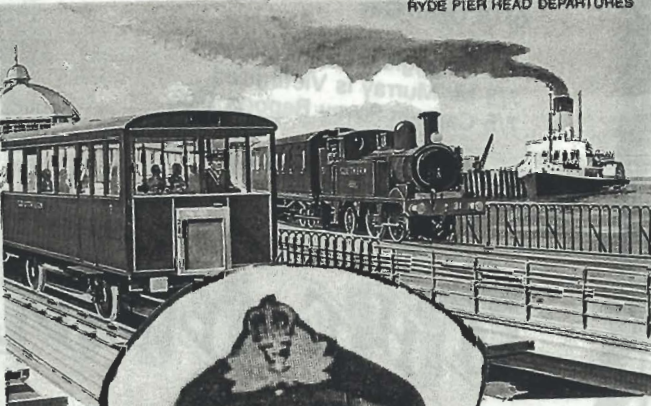
ARRIVING AT COWES FOR THE REGATTA



R.S. RYDE ON A CRUISE ROUND THE ISLE OF WIGHT.



PASSING THE LIGHTVESSEL



RYDE PIER HEAD DEPARTURES



LYMINGTON ARRIVES FROM PORTSMOUTH, ISLE OF WIGHT.





# Returned to the Wardroom....

We have been very fortunate to receive a number of recordings in recent months from the membership which has improved our library dramatically. A cache of Business Larks was discovered in Manchester and Australia has yielded a wealth of Embassy Larks. Replacement recordings for a large number of poor quality Navy Larks have flown in from Canada and promises of further new material have been received as Navy Days goes to print. Keen users of the library will want to know which shows have been replaced, and new arrivals can be assured that we are reviewing every copy regularly to ensure your loan fee is well used. At the last count we are just 10% off the entire output for Navy Lark. Not bad going when you appreciate the number of shows broadcast over all those years. We remain DESPERATE for the SPECIALS for Antarctica and the 'Wrens' reunion broadcast. These shows must be somewhere, so do investigate for us and see what turns up. Leslie Phillips made a recorded broadcast to promote the Navy Lark movie back in October 1959, the programme was not made by the BBC but for the BBC by Twentieth Century Fox. Where did that material go?

## Navy Lark

1/11 Whittlesea Bay Yacht Regatta  
1/7 Admiral's Party  
1/8 Hank of Heather  
1/9 Multiple Mines

4/20 Mr Phillips Gets Engaged

6/17 Emperor of Tratia  
6/18 Open Day

7/2 Smugglers on the Solent  
7/3 Mr Murray is Victimised  
7/5 Captain Povey Reports Sick

12/11 Forbodian Attache

## Big Bu\$iness Lark

- |     |          |                         |
|-----|----------|-------------------------|
| 2.  | 13.07.69 | Cruising On The River   |
| 3.  | 20.07.69 | Taking You Through      |
| 4.  | 27.07.69 | Disposing of A Relative |
| 5.  | 03.08.69 | Playing Ducks           |
| 6.  | 10.08.69 | Taking Orders           |
| 7.  | 17.08.69 | Strike Breaking         |
| 8.  | 24.08.69 | Dining Out              |
| 9.  | 31.08.69 | Initiating You Through  |
| 10. | 07.09.69 | Searching For Liberty   |
| 11. | 14.09.69 | Contracting Out         |
| 12. | 21.09.69 | Destructing             |
| 13. | 28.09.69 | Advertising             |

# THE EMBASSY LARK

The listings of shows here are as supplied by Joe Kasser. We will endeavour to produce a first line index in due course and we hope to identify the recordings received. Joe believes the data supplied represents a chronological sequence which includes an indication of date. But as mentioned elsewhere in this edition of Navy Days no detailed work has been undertaken on the material.

EL 073 GNIT Annual Dinner  
EL 074 Flat Broke  
EL 075 Pettigrew Joins The FO  
EL 076 Do It Yourself  
EL 077 Manoeuvres  
EL 078 Student Relative

EL 079 Compulsorily Purchased  
EL 080 Wafflebird Shoot  
EL 081 A Bit of Change  
EL 082 He Must Go  
EL 083 Up the Pole  
EL 084 Security Leak  
EL 085 Trade Visit  
EL 086 GNIT  
EL 087 Wine Festival  
EL 088 Economic Crisis  
EL 089 Parking Problems  
EL 090 Kremlin Crackling  
EL 091 Trouble on Oily Waters  
EL 092 Lady Daphney's.....



## MISSING SHOWS - JULY 2001

#NO.	DATE	TITLE	OPENING LINES
01-02	05/04/59		In every large concern there are always day to day problems and headaches which often come from a variety of sources.
01-11	07/06/59	The Whittlesea Bay Yacht Regatta	A lot of people feel that there's a great deal of fun to be had from messing about in boats. Our island draft find the trouble
02-07	27/11/59		An Englishman is entitled to his own point of view and the right to express it freely. This applies whether it's a right rollick!
02-12	01/01/60	The Route March	There have been many books printed on the art of public speaking - including my own "Announcing for Announcers". Bod
02-14	15/01/60		Every day there are board meetings taking place at which monumental decisions have to be taken. Naturally, Admiralty ha
02-18	12/02/60		In everyone's life there is always a day of reckoning. Usually it's a Monday when you check the laundry they've let you hav
02-19	19/02/60		From time to time, even in the best run offices, one does have to do some work. To a man like our C.O. Lieutenant Comm
02-20	26/02/60		No matter what position you hold, an interview with one's superior can be very unnerving. Last time I asked the BBC for a
02-22	11/03/60		We all like going to parties. Last week all the announcers had one of those parties when everybody brings a bottle and we
02-23	18/03/60		It's always useful to meet one's superiors informally. I bumped into the Director General of the BBC today and we had a c
02-24	25/03/60		It's nice to get away from routine for a bit. Last week it was the announcers annual charabanc outing and we all went to Jo
02-Sp	05/11/60	Wrens Reunion at the Festival Hall	
03-08	21/12/60	50th Show Special for the Queen	Yes, this is the fiftieth show and my name is Robin Boyle. I mention these two things because after fifty weeks of being the
03-10	04/01/61		There are certain things every man's entitled to in life for they're his heritage. Things like a flaming great rocket from his e
03-11	11/01/61		The trouble with relatives is that you don't get a chance to choose them. They're dead lumber. I've got a certain maiden a
03-12	18/01/61		They say that it's cheaper by rail and a neighbour of mine has proved for himself that it is - mind you, he happens to be an
03-13	25/01/61		The great out door fresh air life is supposed to help in preventing colds. All I know is that every time I do any gardening I c
03-14	01/02/61		Like many of you, Mrs Boyle and I are quite naturally house proud and very often we sit back in our armchairs and talk ov
03-20	15/03/61		Yes, it's time for the crew of H.M.S. Troutbridge to go on leave again. The time when the hearts of their families are filled
04-01	15/09/61	Returning from Leave	Do you ever get one of those days when everything goes right? You get a seat on the bus, you put a bob on an outsider a
04-03	29/09/61		Now there are several things that can occur with boats. You can mess about in them, you can be messed about by them o
04-17	05/01/62	The Invitation	I always find those official printed invitations to functions pretty baffling. For one thing, why do those gold edged cards alw
04-18	12/01/62		One of the snags about being in the Navy is that you are liable to be sent on what is called an exercise. It's anyone's bet
04-20	26/01/62	Mr Phillips gets Engaged	Like most men I've often wondered what girls talk about when they're together. As our Wrens, Judy and Heather are alone
04-Sp	25/12/62	Christmas Special for Antarctica	
05#09	22/03/63	TV Lark 9	Many of you will have heard the old adage.....
06-10	29/11/63	Chasing the Kepeac	The do-it-yourself craze has really spread in the last few years and it's certainly spread to the Robin Boyle household. In f
07-Sp	25/12/65	Christmas Special for Antarctica	

## INCOMPLETE SHOWS - JULY 2001

#NO.	DATE	TITLE	OPENING LINES	TAPE QUALITY
03-01	02/11/60	In Portsmouth for a refit	Considering the number of glancing blows	poor-break near start/end missing
03-02	09/11/60	Refitting Ebenezer Pertwee's Tug	Gardening is just the job for a fit man, part	OK- short break at about 5 min - end credits part missing.
03-03	16/11/60	Sea trials and the Popadom	We're all a bit helpless when we meet the	OK-Break near start - end credits missing
03-05	30/11/60	The Explosive Biscuits	Teaching methods at school seem to have	Poor at start/break at 25min/otherwise OK/end credits missing
04-21	02/02/62	The Sinking of the Bubble Car	Now that Sub Lieutenant Phillips has beco	Good(opening credits & a few words missing at start)
05#02	01/02/63	TV Lark 2: The Prestige Show	Last week the Troutbridge Television Serv	OK-low - some short breaks, bangs & crackles - opening credits & start missin
05-02	12/04/63	100th Edition	Although they may not realise it, ever sinc	Good but end missing
07-01	11/07/65	Back in the muck again	And this is Robin - "I'm the one who does	poorish-end missing
07-12	26/09/65	The Potemeyland Training Exercise	Now then - about this saucy Lillian Gish cl	A bit muffled; most of opening announcement missing; end credits missing
11-12	15/03/70	Mr Murray is Married	Most of us think about marriage sometime	poorish-fuzzy-end missing
15-05	07/12/75	Black is Beautiful	Stone me! The "Naval News" is getting poi	OK - a few words missing at start/end credits missing
15-08	28/12/75	Horrible Horace Comes aboard	Captain Povey's office! Captain Povey spe	Good- but opening credits & a few words missing at start - end credits missing





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## Independent - London

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**Title:** Letter: The navy lark

**Summary:** Sir. This is the recently released transcript of a radio conversation between a US naval vessel and Canadian authorities. Americans: "Please divert your course 15 degrees to the north to avoid a collision." Canadians: "Recommend you divert your course 15 degrees south to avoid a collision." Americans: "This is the aircraft carrier USS Lincoln, accompanied by three destroyers, three cruisers and numerous support vessels. I demand that you change your course 15 degrees north, that is one-five degrees north, or counter-measures will be undertaken to ensure the safety of this ship." Canadians: "We are a lighthouse. Your call."

**Source:** The Independent - London

**Date:** 05/15/2000

**Price:** \$2.95

**Document Size:** Very Short (98 words)

**Document ID:** UU20000516040073033

**Citation Information:** FOREIGN, Vol. 332, Issue: 30892, Comment Section





Picture: Toby Melville

**BUNGLING** back yard engineers hired to repair sophisticated military equipment have brought navy strike craft to a standstill.

This week the South African navy started an investigation into allegations that its equipment was being fixed on "kitchen tables and garage floors" and that poor workmanship had torpedoed the country's ability to protect its coastline.

Only four of the country's nine strike craft were fully operational on Friday, while some of the others had been "cannibalised" for spare parts.

One of the allegations is that the then contracts office manager at Durban's naval base, Don Esterhuizen, opened a home repair business called Magsem Services which won contracts to fix strike craft components. He has since been transferred from the contracts office to head up a "transformation office" at the base.

The claims surfaced in a scathing letter and were later backed up by five navy sources. The letter, of which the Sunday Times has a copy, alleged that:

The awarding of tenders for the repair of strike craft components had been manipulated so navy staff could do the jobs at home "on the cheap";

Navy staff were fixing complex military hardware on "kitchen tables and garage floors";

Some strike craft were unable to put to sea because inexperienced engineers had botched repair jobs; and Top navy brass chose to "simply write off" R600 000 which was unaccounted for in the contracts office to "avoid a scandal".

After being shown a copy of the letter on Friday, the head of the base, Rear-Admiral Jan Rabe, said he was calling in a team of auditors to fully investigate the claims. He was unaware that any money could not be accounted for in the contracts office, and said some of the ageing strike craft had been stripped down to provide parts for the four working vessels.

Rabe denied claims in the letter that some strike craft had "ground to a standstill" because a contractor had botched repairs to a sophisticated radar device.

Four months ago the device was sent for repairs in Durban and returned in an "unsatisfactory" condition to the base three weeks ago, independent sources confirmed.

Rabe said there was a shortage of strike craft parts and his budget did not allow for costly repairs to be carried out by specialist companies overseas. "It is government policy now to give the smaller contractors a chance," he said.

The letter claims Esterhuizen could have used his position in the contracts office to influence the awarding of repair tenders to his own business. But Esterhuizen strongly denied the allegations, saying: "I never made a fortune doing repair work for the navy."

He said he was given permission by the chief of the navy in the early '90s to run Magsem Services from his home in

Amazimtoti, south of Durban. "Sometimes nobody except me had the know-how to repair the broken parts," he said. "Sending them overseas for repairs was costly. What would have cost R12 000 to overhaul overseas I could do for R1 500."

He said that although he worked in the contracts office he "had nothing to do with the signing or awarding of tenders".

"I don't even own a kitchen table, so that allegation is rubbish. I converted my garage into a workshop but stopped doing repairs for the navy at the end of 1994."

A staffer in the base engineering office, Ian Carine, was hired as the auditor of Magsem Services, but said he had "never touched" its accounts as it was dormant.

This week the Sunday Times found a second one-man navy repair business being run from a back yard near Durban.

The letter claims navy officials met two weeks ago to discuss the repair crisis, ordering that "no person is allowed to discuss or even think about this incident".

Rabe was unaware of such a meeting. Repair tenders "manipulated in favour of military staffers"

Sophisticated hardware "fixed on kitchen tables and garage floors"

Strike craft fleet hobbled by "botched home repair jobs"

Top brass "wrote off" R600 000 to avoid scandal

Durban base commander orders full investigation



**THE SUNDAY TIMES**



RadioTimes  
**WEDNESDAY**  
21 February



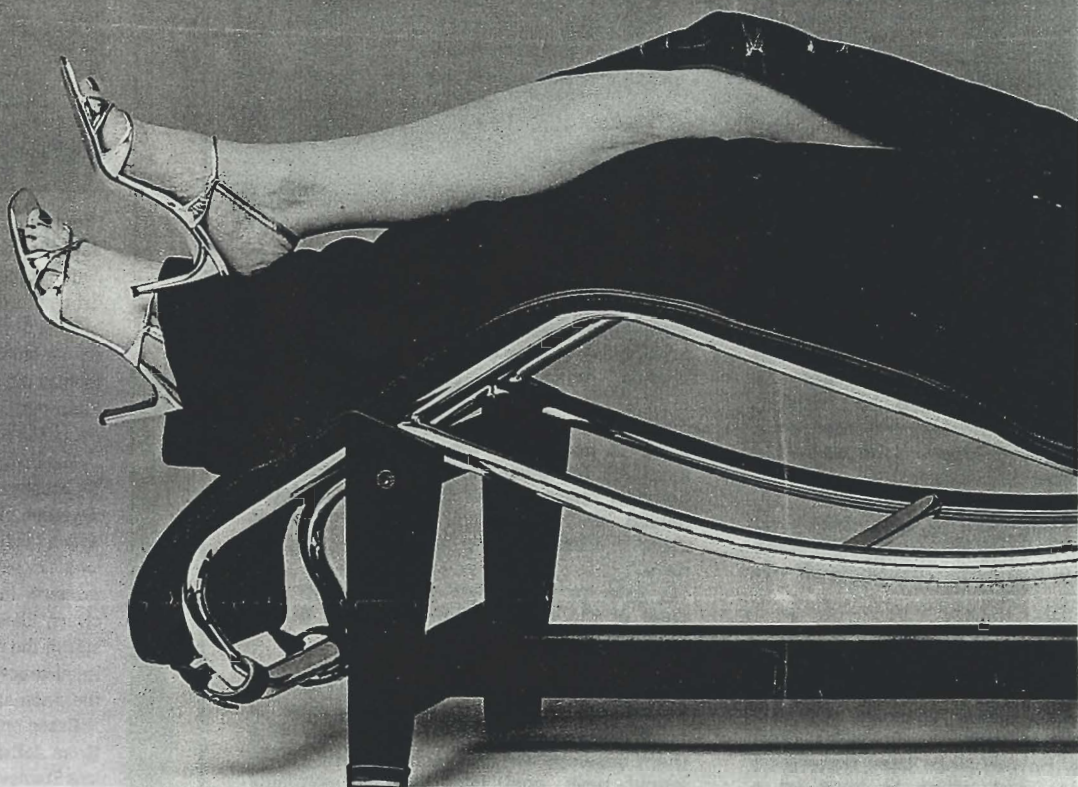
## Choice

One of the great Peter Tinniswood's most endearing and enduring creations is Sir Plympton Makepeace. Hauled out of a seedy retirement, Sir P, in the suitably suave person of Leslie Phillips, finds himself returned to the House of Commons - largely because the wallahs at party HQ, deciding that his first name is usefully distinctive, woo him with taste-free sangria and bandit-proof Mexican cheroots. The happy outcome is a clutch of unlikely Tales from the Backbench (11.15pm R4).



# With good Grace

Brenda Blethyn's unexpected US hit, *Saving Grace*, shows how outrageous the laidback British actress can be



**B**renda Blethyn is running late. But not for the reasons you might expect of a twice Oscar-nominated actress. She's not throwing a movie star tantrum on account of her hotel curtains being the wrong shade of apricot. Nor have interview proceedings been delayed due to her sudden whim to fly off to the South of France to join Warren Beatty and Annette Bening on their yacht for a round of oysters and champagne.

No, Brenda is delayed because she's busy with needle and thread: sewing on a button that has fallen off the suit jacket of her previous interviewer. Not the sort of caring, mumsy behaviour you expect from a bona fide film star. But, then, Brenda Blethyn is not exactly your average bona fide film star.

Brenda Botle ('Blethyn' is the result of her marriage to Alan Blethyn, which ended 25 years ago) came late to acting, having worked for the Royal Bank of Scotland and British Rail, and didn't win her first stage role until she was nearly 30. And Brenda had just turned 50 when she secured the role in Mike Leigh's *Secrets & Lies* which would win her

seven major awards and the first of her two Oscar nominations.

Almost immediately, Brenda had become an internationally famous actress. "I wouldn't say my life changed overnight," she says. "I was mature enough to deal with the sudden recognition. At 50, you tend to know the value of things and you're able to keep your feet on the ground."

## The high life

"It didn't change my life too much, apart from the fact that I get recognised on the street more now. But it changed my way of working because, after *Secrets & Lies*, I was only offered films. I have mixed feelings about that because the more films I did, the more I missed the theatre. I suppose that's the price I've paid for success in films."

Most prominent of these was *Little Voice*, her second Oscar-nominated role, followed, most recently, by her acclaimed performance in *Saving Grace*, a charming comedy from Sky Pictures that premieres on Sky this month. The film was a British hit over the summer

and took US box offices by storm in early September, taking nearly \$3 million over the Labor Day weekend. Brenda excelled in her role as a middle-class woman who, following the death of her husband, makes ends meet by growing marijuana in her greenhouse.

"Grace was such a great character," she says. "I couldn't resist taking the part. She's another survivor, but in a different way to the characters I played in *Secrets & Lies* and *Little Voice*, where she finds herself in trouble and she almost falls apart. But as soon as she starts facing up to her situation, she suddenly finds reserves of strength she didn't know she had, she finds her own way of coping."

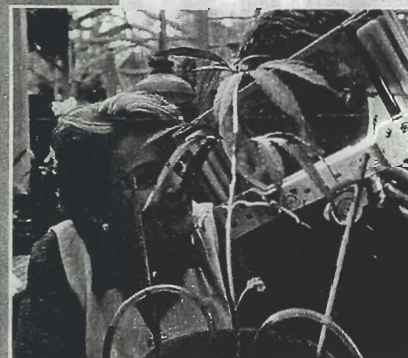
"It's an emotional role. It's an emotional film. But it's also an incredibly funny film. I think that's a lovely combination."

In person, Brenda Blethyn bears little resemblance to the film characters that have made her a household name. Unlike the character she plays so brilliantly in *Saving Grace*, it's hard to imagine Brenda resorting to growing marijuana in her garden shed if the work dried up - although she does





Brenda, co-star  
Craig Ferguson and a pot  
plant in *Saving Grace*



Joint account:  
Brenda enjoys the  
fruits of her labour



admit to being a keen gardener when she and her partner of seven years, graphic designer Michael Mayhew, visit their cottage in Lowestoft.

#### Out of character

"That doesn't stop people confusing me and the characters I play," she laughs. "It happens quite a lot. Around the release of *Secrets & Lies*, I was at a film festival in Norway or somewhere like that - there are so many, I muddle them up. Anyway, this woman comes up and says, 'How does it feel to be in the movies? Don't you miss your friends at the factory?' She thought the film was the story of my life.

"I said, 'No, I'm a classical actress.' I think she thought I was pulling her leg. I had to explain that I was a proper actress and this was just a character I was playing. Even then, I don't think she believed me. I suppose it's flattering in a weird way.

"The characters are never me though. There might be bits of me there. But ultimately my job is to portray them truthfully." Meanwhile,

the film roles keep coming, ensuring that she'll get recognised more and more on pavements everywhere from here to Timbuktu, and further delaying her much-desired return to theatre. Not that Brenda is complaining.

"Lord no!" she pipes up. "It all feels like a treat now. I thank my lucky stars. I must have done something really good in a previous life for all this to happen. It's lovely, it really is. I keep thinking, 'When is the bubble going to burst?' People tell me, 'Maybe it won't burst. Brenda, maybe it'll just go on and on.' Wouldn't that be lovely?"

A beaming smile. A slight pause. Then, words that you're never likely to hear spoken by Sharon Stone or Julia Roberts. "It's been lovely to meet you. But, before you go, do you need any sewing done? Because I've got this bit of thread left over and it would be a pity to let it go to waste."

Brenda Blethyn is a very different kind of movie star.

**Saving Grace** • Sun 26 • 9pm • Sky Premier & Sky Premier Widescreen • Channels 301 & 305 • Little Voice • Wed 8 • 8pm • Sky Premier 3 • Channel 303

## YOUR QUESTIONS

Here, Sky digital customers get the chance to put their questions to actress Brenda Blethyn

Was *Chance in A Million* in 1994 your TV break?  
**Gary Stockdale, Huddersfield**

I suppose it was. But it wasn't the first television I did. I was in a 1980 BBC2 play called *Grown-Ups*, followed by a small part in an episode of *Yes Minister*.

What's next for you?

**Lucy Glover, via e-mail**

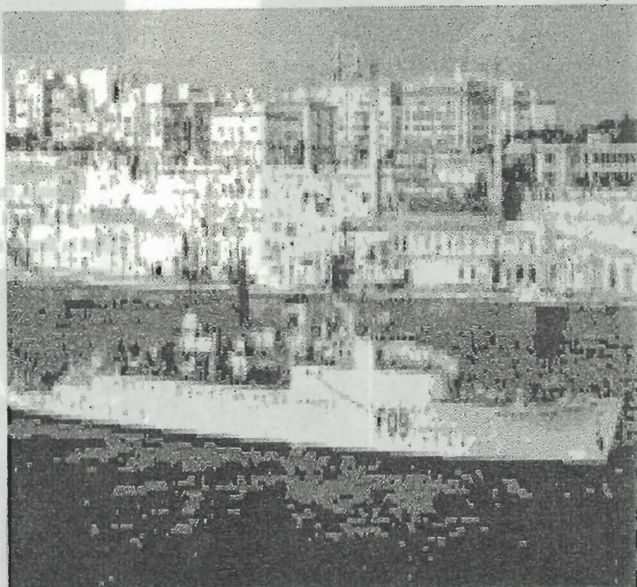
No idea, I'll see what comes up. In the meantime there's a handful of films I've made that are waiting to come out, including a Billy Bob Thornton comedy.



If you have a question you'd like to ask *Austin Powers* and *Wayne's World* star Mike Myers, to be used in an interview in a future issue, then e-mail it to:

sky.editorial@redwoodgroup.net or post it to:  
Ask Mike, Sky Customer Magazine, Redwood,  
7 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4HA.





# HMS TROUBRIDGE

Pendant Number: F09

Callsign: MDSQ

HMS TROUBRIDGE was originally built as a 'T' class destroyer that was completed in 1943. During 1955-57 she was converted to a Type 15 frigate. I served on her from 5 September 1964 to 4 February 1966 mainly in the Mediterranean.

The BBC radio comedy team (Leslie Phillips, Jon Pertwee etc.) of the "Navy Lark"

HMS TROUBRIDGE were closely linked with the ship. Their "ships crest" was very similar to ours with the exception that the bridge in the centre was broken! HMS Troubridge had been refitted in Malta and was one of the ships there for Malta's Independence Day on Monday 21 September 1964.

Lord Louis Mountbatten represented the authoritative handover

On one occasion we were used by a film crew to portray an American warship in the film "The Bedford Incident". The ship was at 'Action Stations' when the cameras rolled and was used as part of the it was on this ship that we experienced hurricane force winds (force 12 on the Beaufort Scale) whilst exercising above Northern Ireland. There was damage to the Foc'sle ladders which were made of aluminium, they were twisted with the force of the wind and waves but I don't recall any further loss or breakage's other than the odd plate or two. I guess skill and a lot of luck brought us through the storm. In April 1967, RO2(G) Richard Ford joined HMS Troubridge for a phased General Service Commission including 11 months East of Suez. Richard takes over the details. We went round the Cape, put in at Simons Town and did the obligatory Beira Patrol before joining up with Task Force 345 to cover the withdrawal from Aden (Think that must have been the other way around!). Following this we split off from the Task Force in company with HMS Cavalier and headed for the Pacific for RANEX etc. On completion of this, funnily enough, having read of your heavy weather experience in home waters, both Troubridge and Cavalier headed in company for Adelaide, in the process encountering cyclonic weather, the worst I went through in 14 years service. Both ships took storm damage. Foc'sle, companionways ripped off, Bofors gun ring stove in, that sort of thing.

We stayed in company visiting Melbourne, Sydney, Newcastle, and Hobart. We returned home via more Beira Patrol and a stint as Guardship at Gibraltar, visits then to Monaco and Gaeta in Italy, Thence to Lower pool of London where the Navy Lark cast and several ex matelots from her wartime service came on board to sign hats, drink our rum (Those people never heard of sippers!) but we didn't mind. We got free tickets to the Simon Dee show in London which could be the subject of a whole different letter - talk about a performance (Jack style, that is!)

We then paid her off in Chatham, mid to late 1969.

Her skippers from 1967 to 1969 were 'Black Taff Thomas' Lt Cdr and subsequently Cdr Robin Doe, a Fleet air arm pilot getting his Bridge time in, really nice guy, cleared lower deck after a particularly ignominious attempt at a RAS(L) when we had to do an emergency breakaway and everyone was covered in FFO, said he was frightfully sorry, he wasn't used to driving one of these things, and thanks to everyone on the iron deck for fending us off the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Orangeleaf (I think it was). He had a lot of style.

In May 1970 she was broken up for scrap.





HMS TRAVELLER

FL 20248



(a) Operational Employment (b) Period at Sea.	No. of days in contact with enemy, including A/c.	Description of enemy.	If contact led to attack against enemy type of weapon used
(a) Mediterranean Fleet (b) Approx. 14 days. including Operation below.	4 days - 31.5.43., 3.6.43 - 5.6.43., 8.6.43.	Pantellaria garrison.	Yes. Bombardment 4.7" guns.
(a) Mediterranean Fleet (b) See above.	2 days 11-12.6.43	Lampedusa garrison.	Yes. As above, Approx. 10 rounds 11/6. 4.7" guns.
(a) Mediterranean Fleet Operation "Rusky". (Force H) (b) Approx. 27 days.	1 day 31.7.43. 1 day 7.8.43.  1 day 8.8.43. 1 day 14.8.43.  1 day 15.8.43.	Army positions Otranto. Rly tunnel at Taormina. As above & coast road. Batteries N. of C. Pellaro. E/boats off S. Calabrian coast.	Yes. 4.7" guns. " " " " " " " "
(a) Med. Fleet (Force H) Operation "Avalanche" (b) Approx. 29 days.	3 days 7-9.9.43.	A/c.	Yes. 4.7" guns.
(a) Mediterranean Fleet (b) 1 day.	Night 26-27.11.43	Army positions Minturno area.	Yes. 4.7" guns.
(a) Mediterranean Fleet (b) 1 day.	Night 12.12.43.	ditto.	ditto.
(a) Mediterranean Fleet (b) Approx. 7 days.	Night 8-9.1.44  " 9-10.1.44. " 10-11.1.44.	Transport small craft and positions San Benedetto. ditto Train and Rail- way at Civita Nova and positions at Pedaso.	Yes. 4.7" guns.  ditto. ditto.
(a) Mediterranean Fleet (b) Uncertain.	Night 15-16.1.44	Dryniki and Vela Luka, Is. of Korcula.	Yes. 4.7" guns.
(a) Mediterranean Fleet (b) Uncertain.	Night 18-19.1.44.	Vela Luka	Yes. 4.7" guns.
(a) Mediterranean Fleet (b) Approx. 9 days.	Night 10-11.2.44	Trains between San Benedetto and Ancona. Vela Luka	Yes. 4.7" guns.

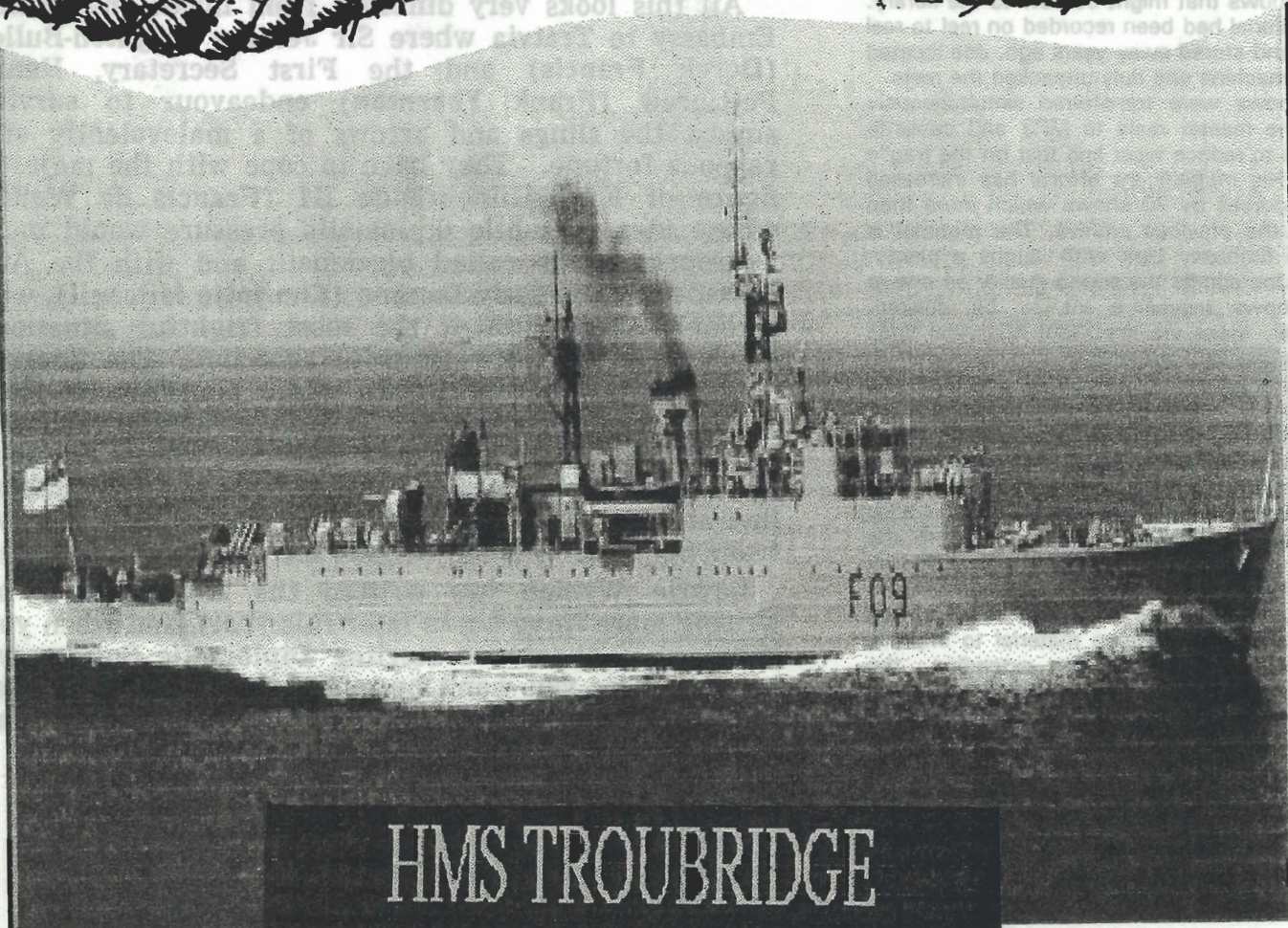


H.M.S. TROUBRIDGE - Continued - 2 -

(a) Mediterranean Fleet (b) Uncertain	A.M. 27.2.44.	Vela Luka	Yes. 4.7" guns.
(a) Mediterranean Fleet (b) 5 days.	Night 4-5.6.44.	Lussinpiccolo	ditto.
(a) Mediterranean Fleet (b) Uncertain.	Night 12-13.9.44.	'1 K.T.Ship, 2 small E/V's and 3 Caiques sunk, between Santorin and Crete.	ditto.
(a) Mediterranean Fleet (b) Uncertain.	Night 18-19.9.44.	U-boat sunk	Yes. Depth charges and gun fire.

HMS TROUBRIDGE

F09





## THE EMBASSY LARK

The Embassy Lark was a sister show to the Navy Lark and ran for 3 years between 1966 and 1968 with an annual run of 13/15 shows. Troutbridge regulars guested on the series but not always in their Navy Lark characters. Leslie Phillips found himself marooned in Tratvia as Sub Lt. Phillips and on one occasion trying to holiday and Troutbridge somehow found it's way there to the despair of all.

Laurie Wyman's wrote for a smaller ensemble but the basic premise remains very much the same. Incompetent people in positions of authority making a mess of things and fooling everyone most of the time. The way the stories unfold demonstrates a genuine understanding of power politics and the need to be seen and be seen.

The availability of off air material has been a little difficult to find. The niche audience this show found perhaps had less access to home recorders than the better known Navy Lark. Such off air recordings that do exist tend to induce 'listener fatigue' due to various irregularities in recording levels, weak transmission signal, or medium wave hum etc.

In Spring 2001 Joe Kasser (from Australia) contacted us and said he thought he had some shows that might be new to the library. The material had been recorded on reel to reel off air and stored away years ago. Joe located a tape machine and duly unpacked the reels.

The shows were transferred simultaneously from the master reels to MP3 and cassette formats to reduce wear and tear on the fragile tapes. His magnificent efforts has increased our resources by 20 shows which more than double the previous archive. The material is vintage Embassy Lark with laughs a plenty; but as Joe admits the sound quality on one or two shows leaves a lot to be desired. However, these are important historical finds and we are very grateful to him for his time, effort and generosity in supplying us with the material. To accompany this celebration of Joe's tapes I have located an early Radio Times with an article about this "new" show and reproduce it here. Before you rush to the library and ask for these shows I must advise you that, they have yet to be put into the listing. Copies will be made available by Christmas but we have been concentrating on Navy Lark upgrades in recent months and cross checking incoming material to improve the core library before extending the supporting shows. Apologies to those of you desperate to hear this new material but it will be with Douglas by late October.

FV



Sterling Diplomat copes with overwhelming King in

## The Embassy Lark



LIGHT

7.31

To Britons abroad, the British Embassy is the one bastion of civilisation in an alien land. If you drive the wrong way up a one-way street, can't pay your hotel bill, or have a punch-up with someone who turns out to be related to the Minister of the Interior, the Embassy will somehow get you out of the muck.

All this looks very different from inside the British Embassy to Tratvia where Sir Jeremy Crichton-Buller (Derek Francis) and the First Secretary, Henry Pettigrew (Frank Thornton) endeavour to survive amidst the slings and arrows of a malevolently outrageous fortune. They have to cope with the majestic figure of King Hildebrande III (Francis de Wolff), whose idea of subtle diplomatic pressure would more appropriately be called blackmail; and with the Ambassador's wife, Lady Daphne (Charlotte Mitchell), who serenely sails through the most frightful situations dropping bricks with generous abandon. The Russian Ambassador (Michael Spice), whose Embassy is—most uncomfortably—next door, must be outwitted; and the Chinese Ambassador (David Fallon), whose Embassy is unstrategically situated between the main railway line and the goods yards, must occasionally be rescued from his state of siege behind the level-crossing gates.

Lawrie Wyman has written the stories (he'll be writing more *Navy Larks* later this year), and when you know more about our sterling Diplomatic Service we hope perhaps you won't begrudge them their only real 'perk' in life—a world-wide ability to park a car without getting nicked.

ALASTAIR SCOTT-JOHNSTON

RADIO TIMES March 10, 1966







## Sexton Blake

Do you remember the radio series? You might be interested to learn that Heather Chasen co starred with William Franklin who was Sexton Blake and David Gregory played Tinker in the 1967 broadcasts. I have found 8 shows (possibly half these broadcast) if you discover similar material do get in touch!

FV

In recent months recordings of The Avengers (South African Radio versions) have been on my machine at home. The storylines are adapted from the television series with the addition of a narrator to assist the listener whilst keeping the dialogue typically 'Avengers'. In an attempt to date my recordings I returned to Dave Rogers book 'The Ultimate Avengers', it's an excellent reference tome and as I leafed through the pages I saw this poster for a stage version of the series. The descriptions of the sets and props are awesome and a very ambitious production was devised. However, due to various technical problems the show closed all too soon. It was felt that the production should have toured the country prior to its West End showing in order to remedy some of the technical imperfections. Brian Clemens believes had this happened the show would have run and run, because despite the on stage mishaps everyone loved the entertainment.

FV

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# THE AVENGERS

by  
TERENCE FEELY  
and  
BRIAN CLEMENS



**Jeremy  
Lloyd**

**Anthony  
Sharp**

Julie Neubert John F. Landry Wendy Hall Paul McDowell Derek Fensley  
Tim Buckland Kenton Moore Mary Llewellyn Heather Kyll Lisa Collings  
Gail Granger Gypsy Kemp Joanne Ross Kubi Chaza Helen Gill

Scenarist designed by  
Michael Young

Lighting by  
Rob Chilton

Directed by  
**Leslie Phillips**

Costumes designed by  
Barbara Swaine & Harold Gold

Sound by  
Anthony Hardy



## INCOMING Mail

We receive an interesting assortment of mail here at NLAS HQ. This page is a celebration of some of the messages received.....

Hi Fred;

I have come across a Navy Lark recording by accident and immediately fell in love with it as I am currently serving in the Canadian Navy here on the Pacific Coast in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

Listening to more recordings I found (8 so far), I found that the real navy is not much different from the Lark. As a friend of mine (an officer) once mentioned, "he was so stupid, other officers in the wardroom started to notice". It seems we have our share as well.

As a Hull Technician (shipwright), I have seen almost everything in the way of "bunnies" (personnal projects) and had a real good time listening to CPO Pertwee's scheme with the brass shells for relative (bunny) as I helped some of our gunners by making wood plaques to display the shells, or by turning mahogany bullets for 6 shells engraved with the ship's crest for the XO (who assured me they were for a display at the brow, which after a year and a half, I have never seen and that no one can find)....

Hi I am 45 year old disabled telephonist and both me and my mate Spence r (who's blind and works on the same switchboard as me-cripples, eh) absolutely LOVE listening to cassette recordings of The Navy Lark at work. To us, the goingson aboard Troutbridge represent a microcosm of British society i.e. complete bloody uselessness. So please can you e-mail details of how to join the appreciation society? Many thanks ll.



## Stephen Griffiths explores an early radio series by Jon Pertwee

I don't think that there are any copies of "Pertwee's Progress" in circulation. I'm not sure on how many the BBC hold for themselves.

I hope that one day somebody will produce a record of what is still held in the archives, rather like the Kaleidoscope Television Research guides.

"Pertwee's Progress" was broadcast on the BBC Light Programme between 6 April - 29 June 1955 (14 editions) and was a sketch based show, produced by the infamous Dennis Main Wilson. The BBC made a trial recording on 27 March 1955 which was not broadcast, but it must have been acceptable for the series to be commissioned. Details of those involved are yet to be found, but I am working through Theatre and TV listings in that department.

This was Pertwee's third solo radio series, the first being "Puffney Post Office" BBC Home Service, tx. 21 April - 21 July 1950: 14 programmes. The second was "The Pleasure Boat" a variety based series which Pertwee hosted after he starred on the show (26 April 1953) - BBC Light Programme tx. 3 May - 1 June 1953: 5 programmes. However he did host a one off variety special "Jon Pertwee Goes Round The Bend" (BBC Home Service, tx. 27 April 1951 with the BBC Review Orchestra. Jon Pertwee's radio credits are certainly an interesting read, they take up pages and pages.... In terms of trivia JPs first ever broadcast was not "Lillibulero" as he says in "Moon Boots" but the live historical drama play "Voyage to the Sun: The History of Flight" by Jonquil Antony BBC National Programme, tx. 13 March 1938, 7.20 - 7.50pm. Pertwee played Young Man, Icarus, Ludovico and Voice 1. His last radio broadcast (as far as I am aware) was "A Short History of Time" [R2 16 March 1966] a documentary for National Science Week about time.

*Ashton Taylor*  
LIMITED  
PRESENTS

**A UNIQUE  
EVENING** with

# Jon Pertwee

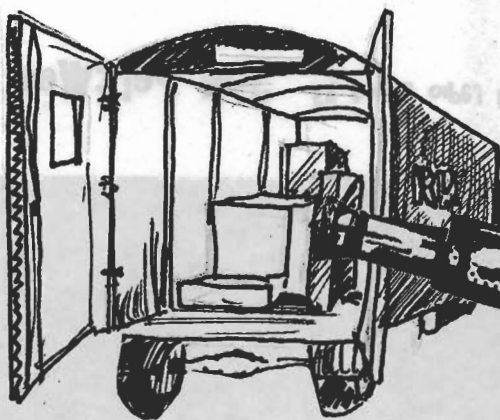
Tales of a life  
in showbusiness  
with the star of

**THE NAVY LARK,  
DOCTOR WHO and  
WORZEL GUMMIDGE**

Thurs. 20 April CHARTER THEATRE, Preston Tel: 01772 258858  
Sat. 22 April MARILETS HALL, Burgess Hill Tel: 01444 242888  
Thurs. 27 April THE WHARF, Tavistock Tel: 01822 611166  
Fri. 28 April THE OCTAGON, Yeovil Tel: 01935 22884

- (1) PERTWEE'S PROGRESS (BBC Light Programme, 6 Apr 1955).
- (2) PERTWEE'S PROGRESS (BBC Light Programme, 13 Apr 1955).
- (3) PERTWEE'S PROGRESS (BBC Light Programme, 20 Apr 1955).
- (4) PERTWEE'S PROGRESS (BBC Light Programme, 27 Apr 1955).
- (5) PERTWEE'S PROGRESS (BBC Light Programme, 4 May 1955).
- (6) PERTWEE'S PROGRESS (BBC Light Programme, 11 May 1955).
- (7) PERTWEE'S PROGRESS (BBC Light Programme, 18 May 1955).
- (8) PERTWEE'S PROGRESS (BBC Light Programme, 25 May 1955).
- (9) PERTWEE'S PROGRESS (BBC Light Programme, 1 Jun 1955).
- (10) PERTWEE'S PROGRESS (BBC Light Programme, 8 Jun 1955).
- (11) PERTWEE'S PROGRESS (BBC Light Programme, 15 Jun 1955).
- (12) PERTWEE'S PROGRESS (BBC Light Programme, 22 Jun 1955).
- (13) PERTWEE'S PROGRESS (BBC Light Programme, 29 Jun 1955).





## Ebenezer R Nunkie Emporium

The Pertwee family association with the Royal Navy extends across all centuries and levels of achievement. It is possible to find a Pertwee beside Lord Nelson at Trafalgar or serving in the MOD at Admiralty House right now! It is fair to say that the Pertwee family and the sea are firmly bonded together.

This is not to say that the relationship is honourable. Far from it. Pertwees have a unique philosophy and their ambitions lie with being in the right place at the wrong time. Hence anyone in the family will know about a promotion, indents, new arrival etc. long before any commanding officer.

Post war Pompey could boast a public house for every 12/20 homes! A great deal of the town had been blitzed and the main source of work was the Dockyard. In those days cargo and refitting vessels was the mainstay of most households if the male parent wasn't in the services. Shops in the town were limited to typically C&A, Marks and Spencer, Woolworths, Littlewoods, various tailors, Etams for women and, of course, footwear and jewellers. Markets were a key feature and the major entertainment on Saturday was when the population would go to Charlotte Street and watch the costers and others sell their goods. There were of course smaller shops selling glass and so on but it was Timothy Whites where most people might go to buy their household goods.

However, money was not in abundance and the need to stretch low incomes to making a home required resourcefulness and ingenuity. It was possible to bring a bit of HMS Victory home quite easily as it was rotting so quickly, and blue and grey paint was VERY easy to get. But, people aspired to greater things! Holidays were taken at the seaside or camping and the preferred transport by virtually every worker was the bicycle. Homes did not have central heating, electric blankets were not affordable so it was either another blanket or a hot water bottle.

This was a time of hope, shared optimism and opportunity. Pertwees had these qualities in abundance. They hoped that Povey would not inspect the stores, shared the Navy's equipment around various distributors and got the biggest return for the smallest outlay.

So in three separate parts of Portsmouth, where incomes were relatively low, a new type of shop arrived. It was called a "surplus" store. In such a venue it was possible to buy uniforms for the tropics, duffle coats, boiler suits, stoves, camping equipment, furniture, kitchen equipment, blankets, telephones, boots and footwear, lighting, in fact if the services ordered it you could buy it. Everything purchasable came with a crown endorsement and an MOD arrow logo. So if you needed new towels, a trip to the "surplus" store would get you some very good quality if austere looking fabrics.

Nunkie's Emporium was just such a place. An alleyway between two shops, a shed for an office and trestle tables upon which British and Foreign MOD issue equipment would be haphazardly presented, like a jumble sale. A couple of bulbs would offer sufficient light to break the gloom of such a place, and a "no refund" notice would be hung from adjoining walls to remind customers that their consumer rights did not exist in such places!

So if you are familiar with white enamel plates with a blue painted rim, parka coats as worn by 60s mods, filley lamps and blue overalls, there is a good chance that Nunkie was able to relieve the Senior Service of them without anyone realising they had the items in the first place.



## Navy Lark Appreciation Society Library List - June 2001 - 1

Many shows have the end credits missing. A few are missing the opening credits. These are not noted below.

A few shows have the start or end of the story missing. These are noted below.

Please use the tape number when ordering.

TAPE	SIDE	SHOW	DATE	TITLE	TAPE QUALITY
03	A	01-15	05/07/59	The Smuggling Spy	OK
	B	02-13	08/01/60	The Trip up the Thames	poor
04	A	02-15	22/01/60	A Crisp Romance	VG
	B	02-21	04/03/60	The Cross Country Run	OK
05	A	02-26	08/04/60	The Potarneyland Fishing Limit	OK but broken up in places
	B	03-01	02/11/60	In Portsmouth for a refit	Poor: Break near start/end missing
06	A	03-02	09/11/60	Refitting Ebenezer Pertwee's Tug	OK- short break at about 5 min
	B	03-03	16/11/60	Sea trials and the Popadom	OK but break near start
07	A	03-04	23/11/60	Mutiny aboard Troutbridge?	OK
	B	03-05	30/11/60	The Explosive Biscuits	Poor at start/break at 25min/otherwise OK
08	A	03-06	07/12/60	Sir Willoughby takes over The Island	Broken up in places otherwise good
	B	03-09	28/12/60	Johnson's Birthday	Poorish-some bits broken up
09	A	03-15	08/02/61	The Floggle Grummit Missile	Broken up at start/bad crackles throughout
	B	03-16	15/02/61	Hitch-hiking Counterfeiter	OK- a bit broken up in places
10	A	03-18	01/03/61	Mr Phillips has Navigation Tuition	OK
	B	03-19	08/03/61	CPO Pertwee and the Laundry	OK
11	A	04-02	22/09/61	Captain Povey's Spy	broken up in places
	B	04-05	13/10/61	Hijacked	Good
12	A	04-06	20/10/61	Admiral Troutbridge	Good, but short break in middle
	B	04-07	27/10/61	Relatives and Reservations	Good
13	A	04-08	03/11/61	Humgrummits on the High Seas	OK
	B	04-09	10/11/61	Are Captain and Mrs Povey Married?	OK
14	A	04-10	17/11/61	Cine Cameras at Sea	OK
	B	04-11	24/11/61	The Citizen Adjustment Course	OK
15	A	04-12	01/12/61	A Hole Lieutenant	OK
	B	04-13	08/12/61	Spy Catching in Casablanca	OK
16	A	04-14	15/12/61	Mount Pot Erupts	VG
	B	04-15	22/12/61	Captain Povey's Shop	Good
17	A	04-16	29/12/61	Leading Seaman Goldstein's Party	Good
	B	04-21	02/02/62	The Sinking of the Bubble Car	Good(a few words missing at start)
18	A	04-22	09/02/62	Long Jonathan Pertwee	OK
	B	04-23	16/02/62	The Admiral's Accident Report	Good
19	A	04-24	23/02/62	Over the Sea to Rosyth	Good
	B	04-25	02/03/62	Return of Sir Frederick Flatley	OK
20	A	04-26	09/03/62	The Ship's Concert	Good
	B	05#01	25/01/63	TV Lark 1: Opening Night	OK
21	A	05#02	01/02/63	TV Lark 2: The Prestige Show	OK-some short breaks & crackles/start missing
	B	05#03	08/02/63	TV Lark 3: Z Ambulances	muffled
22	A	05#04	15/02/63	TV Lark 4: House of Commons	Poor: breaks, bangs & crackles
	B	05#05	22/02/63	TV Lark 5: Makepeace	OK
23	A	05#06	01/03/63	TV Lark 6: On Safari	OK
	B	05#07	08/03/63	TV Lark 7: Ship Ahoy!	OK
24	A	05#08	15/03/63	TV Lark 8: Portarneyland Election	OK
	B	05#10	29/03/63	TV Lark 10: Back in the Navy	fuzzy
25	A	05-01	05/04/63	First day out of dock	Good
	B	05-02	12/04/63	100th Edition	Good but end missing
26	A	05-04	26/04/63	Whittlesea Regatta	Good
	B	05-05	03/05/63	HMS Troutbridge gets a rocket	Good
27	A	05-06	10/05/63	The Ghost Ship	OK
	B	06-01	27/09/63	Wren Chasen Returns	OK
28	A	06-02	04/10/63	On the Carpet	OK
	B	06-03	11/10/63	The Bunglese Spies	OK
29	A	06-04	18/10/63	Troutbridge's Party	OK
	B	06-05	25/10/63	Rescuing Admirals	OK
30	A	06-06	01/11/63	Demise of the Depth Charges	OK
	B	06-07	08/11/63	The Struggle for Promotion	OK
31	A	06-08	15/11/63	Navigation by Computer	OK
	B	06-09	22/11/63	Stormy Weather	Good (crackles during last 5 minutes)
32	A	06-11	06/12/63	The Submerged Island	OK
	B	06-12	13/12/63	The Sicilian Secret Agent	OK/muffled



## Navy Lark Appreciation Society Library List - June 2001 - 2

33	A	06-13	20/12/63	Germany's Troutbridge	OK
	B	06-14	27/12/63	Confirming Povey's Rank	OK/muffled
34	A	06-15	03/01/64	The Calais Dock Strike	OK/muffled/short breaks
	B	06-16	10/01/64	Johnson's Memoirs	Very fuzzy
35	A	06-17	17/01/64	The Emperor of Tratvia	fuzzy
	B	06-18	24/01/64	Open Day	Very fuzzy
36	A	06-19	31/01/64	Stuck on a Sandbank	some crackles
	B	07-01	11/07/65	Back in the muck again	poorish- end missing
37	A	07-03	25/07/65	Mr Murray is Victimised	OK
	B	07-04	01/08/65	The Poveys Move House	OK but big drop in vol after half way
38	A	07-06	15/08/65	Admiral Pertwee's Fleet?	OK
	B	07-08	29/08/65	A Change of Heart	VG
39	A	07-11	19/09/65	The Sabotaged Floggle-Toggle-box	Good
	B	07-13	03/10/65	Going on Leave to Croydon	Good
40	A	08-01	04/09/66	Where is Troutbridge?	OK
	B	08-02	11/09/66	The Float-a-Pedal Fiddle	OK
41	A	08-03	18/09/66	A Sticky Business	OK
	B	08-04	25/09/66	Buoys will be buoys	OK
42	A	08-05	02/10/66	Steamship Day	VG
	B	08-06	09/10/66	Farewell to HMS Varsity	Good
43	A	08-07	16/10/66	The Army Lark	OK
	B	08-08	23/10/66	Just the Ticket	OK
44	A	08-10	06/11/66	Pertwee and the Tratvian Beer	VG
	B	08-11	13/11/66	The PM Papa	OK
45	A	08-12	20/11/66	Getting rid of Pertwee	Good
	B	08-13	27/11/66	Off to Sea at Last	OK except for short break at beginning
46	A	09-01	02/07/67	Back from the Antarctic	OK
	B	09-02	09/07/67	Fishers off the Faeroes	OK (MW interf)
47	A	09-03	16/07/67	A Filthy Ferryboat	Good (MW)
	B	09-04	23/07/67	Jigsaws and Jemmies	OK
48	A	09-05	30/07/67	The Naval Review	OK(MW)
	B	09-06	06/08/67	The Curious Caravan Case	OK (MW interference)
49	A	09-07	13/08/67	Frenchmen in J41	Good
	B	09-08	20/08/67	The Police Drop in	OK
50	A	09-09	27/08/67	Mr Murray's Endurance Course	OK
	B	09-10	03/09/67	Women in the Wardroom	Good
51	A	09-11	10/09/67	Troutbridge's Silver Jubilee Party	Good
	B	09-12	17/09/67	CECIL, The Navigation Computer	Good
52	A	09-13	24/09/67	A Russian Rendezvous	OK (MW whine)
	B	09-14	01/10/67	The Bugged and Burgled Beer	poorish
53	A	09-15	08/10/67	Picking up the Popadom	OK
	B	09-17	22/10/67	The Flying Machine	OK
54	A	09-18	29/10/67	When Mr Phillips was at Dartmouth	OK
	B	09-19	05/11/67	A Fishy Business	OK
55	A	09-20	12/11/67	Troutbridge in Quarantine	Good
	B	10-01	13/10/68	Troutbridge Electrifies Portsmouth	OK
56	A	10-03	27/10/68	The Smugglers' Return	OK
	B	10-04	03/11/68	Captain Trotter Takes Charge	OK
57	A	10-05	10/11/68	Anti-Submarine Missile Launcher	OK
	B	10-06	17/11/68	Sub-Conductor Phillips	OK
58	A	10-07	24/11/68	The South Kiwan Summit	OK- bad breaks towards end
	B	10-08	01/12/68	Pertwee's Enlistment Expires	VG except occasional bad electrical interf.
59	A	10-09	08/12/68	Captain Povey Takes Over	OK(some minor MW interf.)
	B	10-10	15/12/68	Sir Willoughby Goes to Kawowa	OK
60	A	10-11	22/12/68	The Padre's Birthday	OK
	B	10-12	29/12/68	The Portsmouth Kiosk	poor - interference etc
61	A	10-13	05/01/69	The Radio Beacon	OK-a bit broken up at end
	B	10-14	12/01/69	Mr Phillips' Wrong Uniform	OK
62	A	10-15	19/01/69	Harold Wilson Reviews the Fleet	OK(dodgy near end)
	B	10-16	26/01/69	The Relief of the Weather Ship	OK
63	A	10-17	02/02/69	The Mickey Mouse Toothbrush	OK
	B	10-18	09/02/69	The Brick Smugglers	a bit muffled
64	A	11-01	28/12/69	Lt-Cmdr Murray and the Squatters	OK
	B	11-02	04/01/70	What is the SSE?	OK



## Navy Lark Appreciation Society Library List - June 2001 - 3

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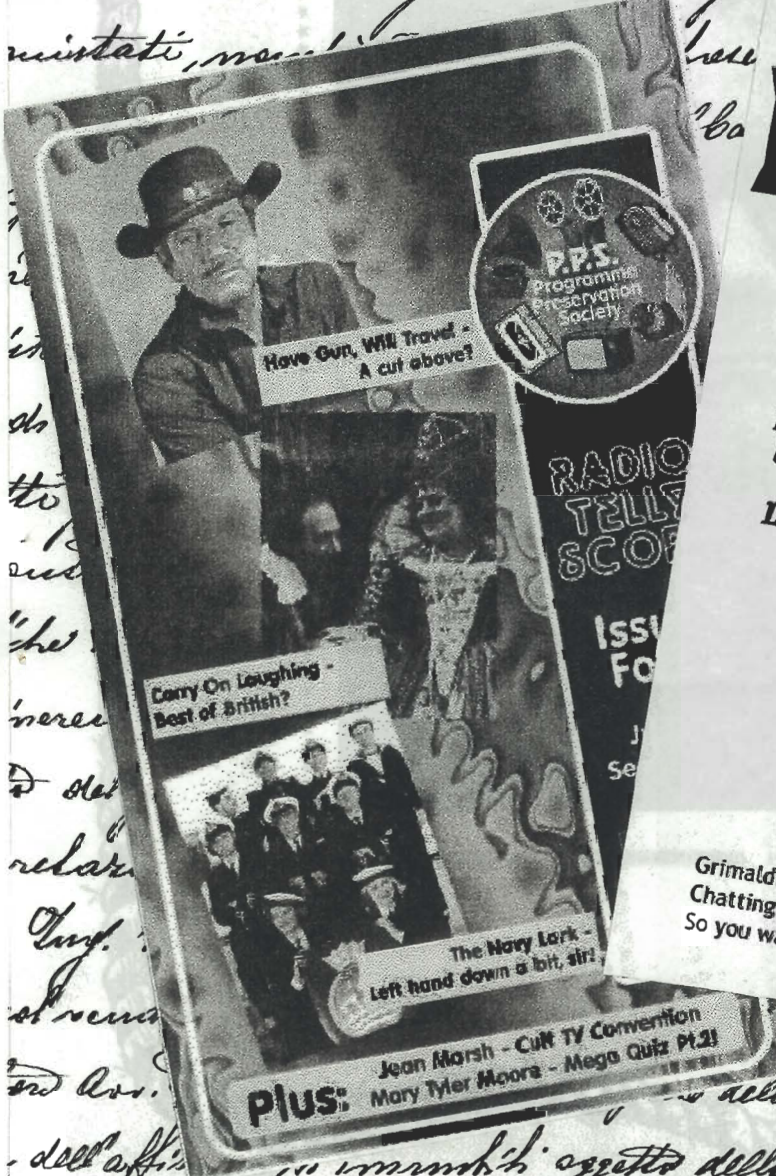


VIDEO TAPE					
VT1		Films	1959/60	The Navy Lark/Watch Your Stern starring Leslie Phillips (For donation purposes please treat the video as two audio tapes)	OK - Copy of recordings from TV
AUDIO TAPES FEATURING NAVY LARK STARS					
JP- Jon Pertwee; LP- Leslie Phillips; RB- Ronnie Barker					
101	A/B	X-05	07/12/96	Everybody Down: R2 tribute to JP (90min)	OK
102	A/B	X-06	1995	An Evening with the Doctor-Part1 (60min) (JP tells his life story)	OK
103	A/B	X-06	1995	An Evening with the Doctor-Part2 (60min)	OK
104	A/B	X-07	1996	Radio Lives: Tribute by Nick Baker to JP	OK
	B	X-08	10/08/99	Review of "On the whole it's been jolly good" starring LP (5min)	OK
	B	X-04	1990s	Farewell to the Paris -10min extract featuring JP & LP	VG
105	A/B	X-09	?	Dracula read by JP (90min)	Clear but loud background hiss
106	A		1975/77	JP: Hans Christian Andersen & Dick Whittington and his Cat	
	B		1965/	JP: My Fair Lady	
107	A		1969/	RB: A Pint of Old & Filthy	
	B		1978/	RB: Unbroken British Record	
108	A/B		1966/	JP & Jim Dale: Oliver	
109	A		1966/	JP: Children's Favourites	
	B		1980/	JP: Worzel Gummidge Sings	
110	A/B		04/08/00	LP & Co.:With Great Pleasure (music/verse/prose - Radio4)	
111	A		1990/	Pertwee in Person - Interview with JP	OK but incomplete
	B		01/12/94	Who is JP? Part 1 (JP tells his life story)	Private recording of live performance: quite audible
112	A		01/12/94	Who is JP? Part 2	though audience noise is intrusive at times.
	B		01/12/94	Who is JP? Part 3	
113	A		1984/	Backstage with JP	OK
			?	JP: Rare musical songs	OK
	B		?	The JP Sketchbook - Comedy sketches with June Whitfield	OK
			?	A Short History of Time - presented by JP	OK - first 15min of an hour long programme
114	A		?	Songs from "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" - JP	OK
	B		?	Deus Ex Machina: Words & Music with JP & co.	OK
115	A		?	JP Songs	OK
			?	BFESUK Radio interview about "Moon Boots & Dinner Suits" with JP	OK
			?	Interview with JP & Mrs Pertwee	OK
			?	Part of JP interview with Parkinson	OK-Recorded from TV with microphone
	B		?	JP: This is Your Life	OK-Recorded from TV with microphone
			?	JP reads "Aladdin"	OK
116	A/B		14/02/94	LP presents a tribute to Kenneth Horne	OK
117	A		?	The Barkers versus the Rest of the World (play featuring LP)	OK
	B		15/03/00	"Me and Little Boots" (play about Caligula with LP as Caligula's horse, Incitatus.)	VG
118	A/B		1992/	RB: A Life in Comedy (TV Soundtrack)	Good
119	A/B		1980/	2 Ronnies: Very best of me &.....of him	Good
120	A		18/03/99	RB: At the Beeb (Radio2)	Good
	B				
121	A/B		Feb/2001	LP:Tales from the Backbench (Radio 4)	Good



THE EMBASSY LARK (Derek Francis & Frank Thornton)					
EL01	A	1-01	15/03/66	The New Ambassador	a bit muffled
	B	1-02	22/03/66	The Overseas Economy	a bit muffled
EL02	A	1-05	12/04/66	The Survivor	poorish
	B	1-13	07/06/66	The Turkish Ambassador	OK
EL03	A	2-01	17/01/67	The Grand Order	OK
	B	2-07	28/02/67	The Oil Rig	OK
EL04	A	2-09	14/03/67	The Missing Document	OK
	B	3-01	05/03/68	The King's Hostess	Good
EL05	A	3-02	12/03/68	The Hole in the Road	OK
	B	3-03	19/03/68	The Unwelcome Deputy	Good, but a few words missing at start
EL06	A	3-04	26/03/68	The British Image	Good but has been on a sticky tape towards end.
	B	3-06	09/04/68	The China Figures	OK
EL07	A	3-07	16/04/68	Sub Lt Phillips Drops In	OK
	B	2-08	07/03/67	The Launching	OK
THE BIG BUSINESS LARK (Jimmy Edwards & Frank Thornton)					
BB01	A	1	06/07/69	Leading You Through	Good
	B	2	13/07/69	Cruising on the River	Good

aggressione apparente mossa da insidiosi "maggiore problema ventura; ciò che è  
 il momento dei "Progetti del Consiglio" - il procuratore del ministero  
 ministati, non...



# LAUGHTER LINES

Summer 2001

No 24

By Jove, missus,  
 it must be time  
 for another  
 Laughter Lines!



Grimaldi  
 Chatting to Johnny More  
 So you want to write comedy!

The Navy Lark  
 Clown Doctors  
 Sitcom Today

Plus:  
 Jean Marsh - CUN TV Convention  
 Mary Tyler Moore - Mega Quiz Pt.2!

...dell'affidabilità, oggetto della commissione... il Sig. Tug. Lovers...



## TV UNFORGETTABLES

### Ronnie Barker

b. 25 September 1929

THE rotund half of *The Two Ronnies*, Ronnie Barker, became a household name alongside Ronnie Corbett, with the unlikely pair acting out sketch upon sketch of hilarious routines, but Ronnie was also the versatile star of a string of hit situation-comedies, with *Porridge* becoming a classic of the genre.

Born Ronald Barker in Bedford, the son of an oil company clerk, Ronnie caught the acting bug through his involvement with amateur dramatics. After only a year, he decided to leave his job as a bank clerk and turn professional.

Repertory theatre beckoned and the young Ronnie was soon treading the boards

in Aylesbury, Manchester and Oxford. He made his London debut in *Mourning Becomes Electra* at the Arts Theatre, before acting in five plays at the Royal Court.

He then switched to radio, changing his name from Ronald to Ronnie, thinking listeners would find it less formal. In 1966 came his part in *The Frost Report*, a satirical television show starring David Frost and the team who went on to found *Monty Python's Flying Circus*.

It was the turning point in Ronnie's career, for it was here that he met diminutive, Edinburgh-born raconteur Ronnie Corbett and the two of them also appeared in the sequel, *Frost Over England*. They hit it off instantly and it was from this rapport that their award-winning show, *The Two Ronnies*,





## THIS WEEK ON TV

**L**ESLIE PHILLIPS opens the front door of his elegant late-Victorian house in London's Maida Vale and disappointingly declines to say "Hello..." Instead, he confirms my name, introduces himself, and then ushers me politely through a small cluttered hall into a large cluttered drawing room. He has no idea that he has frustrated one of my lifelong ambitions.

The venerable doyen of the blazer, cravat and innuendo school of acting is uniquely celebrated for saying *that* word. No repertoire of bad impressions is complete without it and, unsurprisingly, I want to hear it from the master's voice. Which child of the Sixties, weaned on a diet of *Doctor* and *Carry On* films, wouldn't? Phillips' articulation of the word is utterly definitive and, for better or worse, he has made it his own. Pronounced something like "Hair-llooh", and silkily protracted over a couple of lascivious seconds, it has become the touchstone for every would-be Lothario, rake, roué, and 22-carat unreconstructed womanising rotter in England.

"D'you know, I have absolutely no idea why that word took off," he tells me later. "I never consciously said 'hello' with any particular emphasis when I was playing those roles. Extraordinary, isn't it, how people remember me for it. And they do, you know. Every single one."

He is wearing a burgundy V-neck sweater, green cord shirt, light tan slacks and (gratifyingly) a pair of bounder-ish brown suede loafers. We sit opposite each other in the gloom of his antique-filled drawing room, and he asks me to "fire away". I begin by enquiring after his health. "Well, I'm not in absolutely cracking form at the moment but that'll pass," he replies cheerfully. "People are only too ready to say 'take it easy', but I'm not sure that taking it easy is a good idea. I think probably that 'going for it' is a better one. On the whole I'm in fairly good form."

Now 76, Phillips could pass for someone years younger. The hair is sleekly silver rather than blond, and the neatly-trimmed trademark moustache is now >



# The rake's progress

Archetypal English smoothie  
Leslie Phillips compares chat-up  
lines and *Carry On* with David Allsop.  
Photograph: David Cruickshanks





Carrying on: Phillips with Daniel Craig in new TV drama, *Sword of Honour*

grey. But the hawkish profile hasn't changed since that memorable screen moment when he addressed his mirrored reflection as "You gorgeous beast!"

I tell him I have a confession to make. "Yee-ss?" he replies, raising an eyebrow. "I once impersonated you at a party where the theme was 'Come as the person you would most like to be'." I say penitently. "Why?", he exclaims, looking mystified. I explain that it gave me carte blanche to deliver a succession of inexcusably awful chat-up lines without fear of causing offence. "Oh, that's rather lovely," he says delightedly, slapping a thigh. "Did it work?" No, I say apologetically.

Leslie is momentarily incapacitated by laughter. "Haa-aard luck. D'you know, when I played that wicked devil he was so terribly popular with men and women alike. And it never caused offence to anyone. In fact, I've actually met people who have told me that I was the inspiration for them becoming doctors. Isn't that absolutely bloody marvellous?"

Although he is credited with more than 120 screen roles

(including a spell in Hollywood in the Fifties), Phillips is destined to be remembered for his performances as the raffish sexual predator in the *Doctor* and *Carry On* films. In fact, he made only six of them. More surprisingly, he hasn't played a comedy role in more than 25 years, having made a conscious decision to "reinvent" himself in the mid-Seventies. "I used to look upon success in terms of how much I'd earned each year," explains the man who was once reportedly the highest-paid actor in Britain. "Then, about 25 years ago, I decided to measure it by the kind of work I was doing. I had always followed my nose, I just wanted to work, and although those comedies were lovely and tremendous fun, I wanted to do something else. So I decided to do better things, and to do it or die."

In his early fifties, he returned to the theatre, tackling a succession

of challenging classical roles and resolutely turning down "the same old gibbins".

**I**t wasn't the first time Phillips had reinvented himself. Despite his patrician image, he was born into a working-class family in Tottenham, London. His father, a factory worker, died when he was 10 and his mother had to take in sewing to provide for the family. "We were deprived, no question about it," he recalls. "I was the baby, and I saw how you had to work in life if you want to succeed. Work has always been my vice."

One day his mother answered a small ad for child actors, and Leslie never looked back. By the age of 14 he was touring regularly with actors such as John Gielgud and Rex Harrison. I ask if he had also deliberately set out to

reinvent himself then. "Oh, absolutely," he says disarmingly. "It was a totally conscious thing because I saw that it was necessary. I had to shake off the accent if I wanted to succeed."

The young Phillips' transformation was so convincing that when he was conscripted during the war, he was immediately singled out as officer material by his regiment.

Despite the caddish image that he has borne stoically throughout his career, scandal has rarely attached itself to Leslie Phillips. "I haven't lived like people think I have," he insists. "I'm quite proud of that, actually, because I have seen some people, good chums, make awful bollocks of their lives in varying ways. I've largely avoided those pitfalls, thank God."

Phillips has never earned the sort of lurid headlines that might have been expected of his on-screen persona. The closest he came was when his first marriage (which produced four "bloody marvellous" children and 15 grandchildren) ended acrimoniously in divorce in the early Seventies. He has been with his second wife, actress Angela Scoular, since 1975.

His life has not been untainted by tragedy, however. His greatest sadness was when his mother died, aged 92, after a street mugging in 1984. "She was a darling. It was such a ghastly, meaningless end to a life, and left me with a pretty nasty taste. I've never really got over it," he says bitterly.

We part on a more uplifting note. Leslie is about to appear in the TV adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's celebrated trilogy, *Sword of Honour*. "Super part, not a big role, but big enough for me."

I beg to disagree. No role is big enough for the man recently awarded the title of Greatest Living Englishman by a well-known men's magazine. And if anyone can convince me otherwise, I'll eat my cravat. *Sword of Honour* is on Channel 4 this Tuesday and Wednesday. ☺

**"I've actually met people who have told me that I was the inspiration for them becoming doctors. Isn't that marvellous?"**

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